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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,521	01/27/2005	Edouard Francois	PP020099	1461
24498	7590	01/06/2009		EXAMINER
Robert D. Shedd				TORRENTE, RICHARD T
Thomson Licensing LLC			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,521	Applicant(s) FRANCOIS ET AL.
	Examiner RICHARD TORRENTE	Art Unit 2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 January 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-166/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
2. Claim(s) 1 and 4 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the background" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
4. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the MPEG4" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it is not clear within which of the enumerated categories of patentable subject matter the claimed invention falls (Machine, Process, Manufacture, or Composition of Matter).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Allmen et al. (US 6,738,424).

Regarding claim 1, Allmen discloses a process for compression of digital data of a video sequence, comprising the following steps: segmentation of the sequence into alternating video shots (see 310 in fig. 4a), classification of these shots according to camera angles in order to obtain classes (see 314 in fig. 4a), construction of a sprite or video object plane (see 318 in fig. 4a) for a class that is a composite image corresponding to the background relating to this class (see 316 in fig. 4a), grouping of at least two sprites onto the same sprite or video object plane (see 3182 in fig. 4b), in order to form an image called large sprite (see 3182 in fig. 4b), extraction, for the shots corresponding to the large sprite (see 320 in fig. 4a), of image foreground objects from the sequence relating to these shots (see 316 and 324 in fig. 4a), separate encoding of the large sprite (see 322 in fig. 4a) and of the extracted foreground objects (see 328 in fig. 4a).

Regarding claim 2, Allmen further discloses wherein the sprites are placed one under the other in order to construct the large sprite (see 318 in fig. 4a).

Regarding claim 3, Allmen further discloses wherein the positioning of the sprites is calculated as a function of the cost of encoding of the large sprite (see 3181 in fig. 4b, where background in the reprojected frame are added to reduce encoding cost).

Regarding claim 4, Allmen further discloses wherein the large sprite is a sprite such as is defined and encoded in the MPEG4 standard (see fig. 5).

Regarding claim 5, Allmen further discloses wherein a multiplexing operation is carried out for the data relating to the extracted foreground objects and for the data relating to the large sprite in order to deliver a data stream (see multiplexed 322 and 328 to "circle" in fig. 4a).

Regarding claim 6, Allmen further discloses, comprising encoding data for the large sprite associated with deformation parameters applicable to the large sprite (see 318-322 in fig. 4a) and encoding data for the extracted foreground objects (see 324-328 in fig. 4a).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, the claim(s) recite analogous limitations to claim 1, and is/are therefore rejected on the same premise.

Furthermore, Allmen discloses an encoder (see fig. 5) and decoder (see fig. 6).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD TORRENTE whose telephone number is (571) 270-3702. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Young Lee/

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Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621

RT
/Richard Torrente/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621